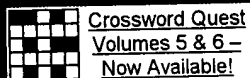




- Home
- Word of the Day
- Word Games
- Word for the Wise
- Books and CDs
- Company Info
- Customer Service
- Network Options
- Language Zone
- The Lighter Side
- Site Map



## Dilemma:

# Merriam-Webster's COLLEGIATE® DICTIONARY



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of[2, verbal auxiliary]  
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Main Entry: <sup>1</sup>of

Pronunciation: &v, before consonants also &; '&v, 'äv

Function: *preposition*

Etymology: Middle English, off, of, from Old English, adverb & preposition; akin to Old High German *aba* off, away, Latin *ab* from, away, Greek *apo*

Date: before 12th century

1 -- used as a function word to indicate a point of reckoning  
<north *of* the lake>

2 **a** -- used as a function word to indicate origin or derivation <a man *of* noble birth> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate the cause, motive, or reason <died *of* flu> **c** : **BY** <plays *of* Shakespeare> **d** : on the part of <very kind *of* you>

3 -- used as a function word to indicate the component material, parts, or elements or the contents <throne *of* gold> <cup *of* water>

4 **a** -- used as a function word to indicate the whole that includes the part denoted by the preceding word <most *of* the army> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate a whole or quantity from which a part is removed or expended <gave *of* his time>

5 **a** : relating to : **ABOUT** <stories *of* her travels> **b** : in respect to <slow *of* speech>

6 **a** -- used as a function word to indicate belonging or a possessive relationship <king *of* England> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate relationship between a result determined by a function or operation and a basic entity (as an independent variable) <a function *of* x> <the product *of* two numbers>

7 -- used as a function word to indicate something from which a person or thing is delivered <eased *of* her pain> or with respect to which someone or something is made destitute <robbed *of* all their

belongings>

**8 a** -- used as a function word to indicate a particular example belonging to the class denoted by the preceding noun <the city *of* Rome> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate apposition <that fool *of* a husband>

**9 a** -- used as a function word to indicate the object of an action denoted or implied by the preceding noun <love *of* nature> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate the application of a verb <cheats him *of* a dollar> or of an adjective <fond *of* candy>

**10** -- used as a function word to indicate a characteristic or distinctive quality or possession <a woman *of* courage>

**11 a** -- used as a function word to indicate the position in time of an action or occurrence <died *of* a Monday> **b** : **BEFORE** <quarter *of* ten>

**12 archaic** : **ON** <a plague *of* all cowards -- Shakespeare>

Get the **Word of the Day** e-mailed every morning. It's free! [Click here.](#)

► **Words to the wise**

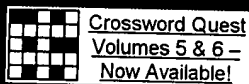
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- ▶ Word Games
- ▶ Word for the Wise
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- ▶ Company Info
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Network Options
- ▶ Language Zone
- ▶ The Lighter Side
- ▶ Site Map



## Dilemma:

# Merriam-Webster's COLLEGIATE® DICTIONARY



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Main Entry: **semi-con-duc-tor**

Pronunciation: - 'd&k-t&r

Function: *noun*

Date: 1838

: any of a class of solids (as germanium or silicon) whose electrical conductivity is between that of a conductor and that of an insulator in being nearly as great as that of a metal at high temperatures and nearly absent at low temperatures

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